



January 7, 2011

Minnesota Nurses Association

The Honorable Congresswoman McCollum
1714 Longworth HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Dear Congresswoman McCollum,

On behalf of our 20,000 Registered Nurses, we are writing today to ask you to speak against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACT). MNA Nurses believe that Health Care is a basic human right, and that all individuals should have access to health care.

While we continue to believe the Affordable Care Act (ACA) did not go far enough, an outright repeal would be irresponsible at best. A number of provisions in effect have made it possible for people to obtain coverage including: allowing young adults to continue on their parents' health plan until age 26; the requirement that new health insurance plans must provide preventive services such as mammograms and immunizations for free; prohibiting insurance companies from having pre-existing condition exclusions against children, and finally, the availability of Medical Assistance for some 95,000 Minnesotans who are both very poor and very sick.

We continue to be dismayed by the misrepresentation of this act by opponent's of health care reform. The Affordable Care Act is NOT a Government Take-Over. In fact, it is far from it. The act continues to rely on a bloated private market insurance model. Fortunately, the ACA creates a regulatory framework by which insurers must follow including medical loss ratios, prohibition of pre-existing conditions and subsidies to help people afford health care. Nor is it a job killer. The Medicaid expansion is projected to bring an additional 20,000 health care jobs to Minnesota. The real economic risk is not creating a system that assures affordable health care. Finally, the ACA does not drive up the deficit. The Congressional Budget Office has stated the legislation will save billions of dollars in the next 10 years. Regrettably, opponents are choosing to ignore the facts.

Thank you for your leadership in fighting for health care reform. As nurses, we know the only truly efficient model is a single payer system, but we will work to take steps along the way to get there.

Sincerely,

Linda Hamilton RN, BSN

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